REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 has been canceled, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and Claims 8-10 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 63-129542; Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 01-245444; and Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as upatentable over Yamada et al. in view of JP 01-245444.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 63-129542. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method for producing a photoresist master for an optical information medium that includes forming a light absorbing layer including a co-initiator on a substrate, applying a photoresist layer on the light absorbing layer, exposing the photoresist layer to a laser beam to form a latent image in the photoresist layer and developing the latent image to form a protrusion/depression pattern to produce the photoresist master. Further the light absorbing layer absorbs light at the wavelength of the laser beam during the exposing step.

By providing such a highly stable light absorbing layer, a light absorption is performed more efficiently (see the specification, page 5, line 15 to page 6, line 9).

On the contrary, JP 63-129542 discloses a light absorbing layer 2 (see the abstract and Figures 1 and 2). However, JP 63-129542 does not teach that the light absorbing layer includes a co-initiator. As such, JP 63-129542 is less efficient in absorbing light.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 01-245444. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP 01-245444 discloses a macromolecular resin film 7 that has absorption characteristics (see the abstract and Figure 1). However, JP 01-245444 does not teach that the light absorbing layer includes a co-initiator. As such, JP 01-245444 is less efficient in absorbing light.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as upatentable over Yamada et al. in view of JP 01-245444. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamada et al. disclose a substrate 1, a dielectric layer 4, a recording layer 5, a dielectric layer 6, a reflection layer 7, a bonding layer 8, and a protective layer 9. However, Yamada et al. do not disclose a light absorbing layer including a co-initiator (see Figure 2). As such, Yamada et al. does not absorb light.

Because neither Yamada et al. nor JP 01-245444 discloses the light absorbing layer as recited in amended Claim 1, even the combined teachings of these cited references are not believed to render the method recited in amended Claim 1 obvious.

For the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable.

In addition, new dependent Claims 8-10 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new Claims 8-10 are directed to a specific light absorbing layer. Further, new Claims 8-10 depend on Claim 1, which as discussed above is believed to be allowable. Thus, Claims 8-10 are also believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early action favorable to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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